

REMARKS

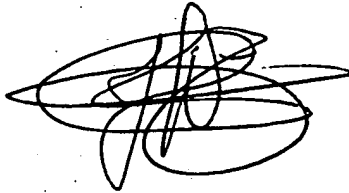
A Notice of Allowability and Notice of Allowance And Fee(s) Due issued in the present case. The same Notice of Allowability evinces that the papers filed on March 25, 2003, and February 7, 2003, were made of record, and that the allowed claims are 1-4, 6, 11, and 18.

Applicants filed an amendment on April 2, 2003, whereby claim 19 was introduced. However, the Notice of Allowability does not refer to the Amendment filed on April 2, 2003, and it does not state for the record the status of claim 19 introduced by such amendment. Various telephone calls to the Examiner resulted in the delivery of voice mail by Applicants representative inquiring on the status of the amendment filed on April 2, 2003. Applicants have received to date no reply to such inquiries.

Applicants note that the filing date of such amendment of April 2, 2003, precedes the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due date of April 11, 2003. The present Submission with an RCE under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 includes as an Attachment a copy of the "Second Supplemental Amendment And 'RCE'" filed on April 2, 2003. Applicants incorporate herein the contents of such Attachment, and respectfully request that the Amendment filed on April 2, 2003, be entered in the record and considered in its entirety, including claim 19 introduced thereby.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the remarks set forth in the Amendment filed on April 2, 2003, Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is maintained in its condition for allowance, and passage to issue is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and strokes, positioned above a horizontal line.

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